

Hi, there.

Glad you got your hands on the 2006-version of the 'Anarchy is Order'-CD. We don't know how you did. We don't care whether you got it directly from us or not. We're not in it for the money. We don't have much overhead-costs either. In fact we often wonder how we did get here to. We're just two nuts with jobs, kids and a mortgage trying to figure out what they can do next. We started this in 2000. It's been a long way coming but it's good to be back.

Time after time I think about how different things could have been if I didn't get into contact with people and groups that made it possible for me to become what I became. No matter how you look at it, personal contacts and individual experience are the main factors in one's (political) formation and evolution. Why did I become an anarchist? By chance and by need. What else would I have become? I never planned on becoming an anarchist.

Standing up from falling down (again) I moved on. I've been enchanted and I've been disgusted by the anarchist movement; I cursed the people and missed them; hated them and loved them. I've had dreams and been in despair. Said farewell and welcomed people and ideas with open arms. I've been smart and I've been an ass.

In short I was little different from anybody else, but each has his path and each path has its ways.

Anarchism has been my path for more than half my life now, at first vague and instinctive, later a bit more rational and with more doubts about some things. Because I had the feeling that a lot of things weren't going as well as they could go -and certainly not as well as they should if we really want to make a change-, that the movement didn't use its full potential and that there were no platforms to discuss this, I started reading, thinking and discussing in small circles.

What you have before you now is the result of years in the (anarchist) desert and my way to answer the pale and the petty. This is an invitation to all involved to gather up arms and wrap them around each other. There is no time to lose. This is my invitation not to let go. Anarchism or barbarism. Anarchy is Order. The proposal for an anarchist mission statement is an attempt to formulate some of my conclusions:

From the 18th century, anarchism evolved as a way of working towards freedom and happiness. A combination of things has covered much of these ideas with the dust of history, blood and tears.

"We try to grow into individual and social 'defense' and 'attack' against injustice (sexism, racism, war, exploitation, lack of freedom at large, ...) and the systems of power over others in general.

Social defence is the response of solidary individuals and communities to undesired events in the outside world as disaster, military coup, financial market crashes, war, AIDS,...

Attack means taking the initiative: we want another world and we are the ones to make it. (Why don't we set a date to it?)

We will make it acting on principles as freedom/autonomy/anti-authoritarianism, solidarity, direct action.

In a world like ours, it's important to know which side you're trying to be on, without needing a promised utopia, a Kingdom Come. Anarchism is an ongoing process, never a standstill."

Derived from this I tried to formulate our organisational mission too:

The anarchist archive 'Anarchy is Order' is one of the attempts to make the original sources of anarchism in literature and graphics available to all. We try to archive and learn from anarchist texts and spread them; we try to offer education to individuals and groups, to activate them, bond them and be a catalysing factor.

Let's bring anarchism to life. So that values like freedom, solidarity and direct action get new meaning, are lived again and the battle continues against the *'demons of flesh and blood, that sway scepters down here; and the dirty microbes that send us dark diseases and wish to squash us like horseflies; and the will-'o-the-wisp of the saddest ignorance'*. (L-P. Boon)

*'I must Create a System or be enslav'd by
another Man's.
I will not Reason & Compare: my business
is to Create'
(William Blake)*

During the 19th century, anarchism has developed as a result of a social current, which aims for freedom and happiness. A number of factors since World War I have made this movement, and its ideas, disappear little by little under the dust of history.

After the classical anarchism - of which the Spanish Revolution was one of the last representatives - a 'new' kind of resistance was founded in the sixties, which claimed to be based (at least partly) on this anarchism. However this resistance is often limited to a few (and even then partly misunderstood) slogans such as 'Anarchy is order', 'Property is theft', ...

Information about anarchism is too often hard to come by for too many people (due to financial, logistic, personal or policing factors), monopolised and intellectual; and therefore visibly disappearing. The 'anarchist archive' Anarchy is Order (in short **A.O**) is an attempt to make the **'principles, propositions and discussions'** of this tradition available again for anyone it concerns. We believe that these texts are part of our own heritage. They don't belong to publishers, institutes or specialists. This is in no way trying to push them away, because much of what we did was only thanks to them. But we felt like we had to push it one step further, as a quite parallel though valuable addition. We wanted to bend the new technologies our way for once. But they remain mainly the tool of the enemy: computers can be traced, so the whole anarchist network could be tracked (as by emails, telephones, internet-visits,...). So be aware of this if you use the CD or the website and consider using an off-line computer, if must be with the hard-disk used with the CD only and removed from the computer together.

These texts thus have to be available for all anarchists and other people interested. That is one of the conditions to give anarchism a new impulse, to let the 'new anarchism' outgrow the slogans. This is what makes this project relevant for us: we must find our roots to be able to renew ourselves. We have to learn from the mistakes of our past. History has shown that a large number of the anarchist ideas remain standing, even under the most diverse social-economic developments.

'Anarchy Is Order' does not make profits. This of course creates some limitations.

Everyone is invited to spread along the information we give . This can be done by copying our leaflets; printing texts from the CD; copying it; e-mailing the texts to friends and new ones to us;... Become your own anarchiv!!!

(Be aware though of copyright restrictions. We also want to make sure that the anarchist or non-commercial printers, publishers and authors are not being harmed. Our priority on the other hand remains to spread the ideas, not the respecting of copyright-laws, even in the hands of comrades.)

The anarchiv offers these texts hoping that
values like **freedom, solidarity and direct action**
get a new meaning and will be lived again.
The rest depends as much on you as it depends on us.
Don't mourn, Organise!

Comments, questions, criticism, cooperation can be sent to A.O@advalvas.be.

A complete list and updates are available on this address, new texts are always welcome!!!

First you find a text about anarchism from me: "Anarchy is Order- our anarchist cookbook". At least: we don't pretend it's new AT ALL. It is an attempt to recollect our history, draw lessons from it and pour it into a proposition to the anarchist movement at large. Where do we go from here? Because I think we need both go back to basics about our theory as to find a new reality, a new practice. Words are not enough, but a good start.

Second, we have managed to build a website: www.anarchyisorder.org.

Third, you will find the CD of 'Anarchy is Order' filled with texts that we found relevant to anarchism -without trying to be even remotely 'complete'. (And that's just one of the things where you could step in.)

It contains: pictures; texts ('lay-outed', 'not-lay-outed' and 'unfinished'); web-things and DIY 'tools of the trade' like bookbinding manuals, templates (Word-formats for -our- standardised lay-out),...

TO BE CONCRETE:

What can you do?

With the CD you can do different things:

1. First of all you can print lay-outed titles for yourself, others or your own book-project. Please mind your printer-“properties” and test first with 4 pages if you don’t want to waste a lot of paper.

We ourselves use: A4 (portrait), 2-sided printing; booklet (A4, left binding); economode (to save ink); no scaling (adapting of page measurements to a paper page); 1 page per paper page.

Or, of course you could use A5 from the shop but then we found two-sided printing difficult so you have to re-insert manually. Again experiment for the correct re-inserting!!

Bookbinding methods differ in price and required skill. The cheapest way seems to be with bookbinding glue, carpenter cellulose glue (water-resistant or not) from any DIY shop. Press the book together -after tapping the backside to the table until all pages are aligned- on the open end with some kind of pitch (you can make one by connecting two longer pieces of wood (longer than your book will be high) by two long screws (longer than your book is thick anyway; choose your format and cut it yourself or take your printing paper to the copy-shop to cut it). Put it in a screwing device with the back-side up, so you have both hands free. Apply glue from the middle to the left while spreading the left side first backwards then forwards. Do the same thing on the right side of the back, applying glue from middle to the right. Press some linnen into the glue and leave pitched long enough before attaching a cover (with name and title) in paper.

Other methods often require more expensive materials to make holes of different kinds and some kind of system to tie them together. (For more see the “bookbinding techniques”-folder on the CD or search the internet).

2. You can scan the original list of texts without lay-out for authors, names, words, ... with the ‘Ctrl-F’ or the ‘search’-system on your computer. (=> everything here is for Windows; perhaps sorry for this, but as we said we’re DIY and not really computer-wizards at all. Any advice or feedback for other systems is welcome.)

3. You can make your own selections and combinations. (You could even give them the A.O lay-out by copying the text into the ‘templates’ you can find on the CD (open it from the CD and save it with your own templates: somewhere in the ‘Save As’-frame you can check ‘template’ or you can look for ‘.dot’ in the ‘Save as type’. You can redesign our template or simply do it allover according to your taste by changing a document and save it as a template and then selecting your template from ‘File’ * ‘New’.

4. You can further add texts to it. Please send us a copy, so we can further distribute it. To make a list of the new content from your hard-disk go to ‘start’ * ‘Run’ * ‘Run cmd’ * so you get in DOS; DOS opens somewhere on a disk (normally where you store your software, the C-drive). Now open ‘My computer as you would to open the folder you want the contents from. On top of the page you can see where you are in your computer, that is built up similar to a tree. You follow branch after branch until you get to where you want to be. The letter (C: or F: or whatever) is the disk your folder is on. Now type the right disk where DOS places your folder (don’t forget the ‘:’). Press enter. Type ‘cd [the following branch, what

is between the first and the next '\'] and press 'Enter'. Repeat for the following branch until you arrive, then type 'dir > [type name of the folder you want to write the contents to]'. In 'My computer': press 'Control-F' to find the folder DOS just created, open it and copy the contents to paste it in a Word-document. Clean up the mess in this document.

If you want to repeat for another folder return to the DOS you were just working in and type 'cd..' until you can retrace the branch which you want to follow next and go back with the 'cd [following branch between two '\'-es

5. You can copy the CD and give it away, sell it (as cheap as possible) or publish it on the internet.

What can you do for A.O?

First of all you can study and research and grow as an individual. This way you can invite and confront others better than before. You can start a discussion-group or anything you like. You can form your own anarchist group. What means most to us is that we can help anarchism as a social and individual movement. Words on paper never were enough in the face of misery and its causes.

Also, as we said before you can spread the texts (digitally or on paper). You can also send new texts, preferably in a digital version without 'hard returns' (the 'enters' at the end of a line) and spell-checked, but simply scanned as pictures if need be.

Whatever you do, please keep us posted.

Where will this lead us? We have no idea. See you round.

Pépé October 2006.